

REMARKS

The examiner is thanked for the office action mailed 04/24/2003 (request for 1-month extension of time enclosed). A Notice of Appeal is enclosed.

A separate letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson is being mailed on the same date as this response along with the corrected drawings incorporating the changes approved by the examiner.

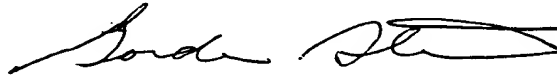
The examiner stated in the action that it was unclear what "AU" meant for citizenship in the Inventor's Declaration. In a telephone conference of 05/09/2003 with my Administrative Assistant, the Examiner stated that she had intended to take this out of the office action and that "AU" as the normal designation for Australia, was acceptable.

The amendment to Claim 2 is to correct an obvious typographical error. Claim 17 is being amended to change "that" to "the" as requested by the examiner. This does not make any substantive change to the claim. Claim 12 is being amended to delete the redundant language "a series of dispensers in each of multiple columns of each of multiple groups". Claim 12 already defines each group to comprise multiple rows and columns of dispensers. Consequently the deleted language does not further define the invention of claim 9.

The examiner raises a number of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph indefiniteness rejections and maintains the same rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 as in the action mailed 09/27/2002. The outstanding action of 04/24/2003 is indicated as Final. Accordingly, the enclosed Notice of Appeal is filed in reply to be followed by an Appeal Brief.

If the examiner is of the view that there are any outstanding issues which might be resolved by a telephone conference, she is invited to call Gordon Stewart at (650)485-2386.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gordon Stewart', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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